

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DRUG ABUSE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I express my deep concern about the developing trends in drug abuse among our kids. As cochairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, I am often confronted with reports about the latest drug trends, but recently I have become more alarmed with what these reports contain. Drug dealers are beginning to market their deadly substances to an increasingly younger crowd so they can become hooked at a younger age.

Young people are the most at-risk populations we have in drug abuse, which is why it is disturbing to see highly addictive drugs such as meth, heroin, even prescription pain killers, antidepressants, and steroids marketed and distributed in new ways—with an emphasis upon new ways—to get a greater number of very young people, particularly elementary children, addicted. I want Congress and the American people to know what is going on with our kids and what we need to do to stop these very dangerous trends.

We have things such as candy-flavored methamphetamine. It is one of the biggest and latest gimmicks that drug dealers use to lure our kids into addiction. Flavors such as strawberry, known as “Strawberry Quick,” and chocolate are clearly being used to make methamphetamine seem less harmful and more appealing. This type of meth is also being marketed in smaller amounts, making it cheaper—because money is an issue—and, hence, more accessible to children. At least eight States have reported cases of candy-flavored meth, and many law enforcement officials are expecting Strawberry Quick to infiltrate their States in the near future.

What is even more disturbing is that many kids may not realize they are using a deadly substance. In fact, that is the motivation behind the drug dealers and distributors. According to my colleague Senator FEINSTEIN, some kids reported that they thought Strawberry Quick was an energy drink and were misled by drug dealers into trying meth for the first time.

Methamphetamine abuse has reached epidemic proportions, and the fact that drug dealers are trying to get children addicted at such a young age underscores the importance of taking quick action to eliminate this danger. That is why I joined my colleague Senator FEINSTEIN in introducing the Saving Kids From Dangerous Drugs Act. This

legislation will double the Federal criminal penalties for drug dealers who flavor or disguise illegal drugs to make them more appealing to people under age 21, and it will triple the penalties for repeat offenders. I hope my colleagues will take a look at this piece of legislation and join Senator FEINSTEIN and me in passing this legislation soon, because we have to end the practice of purposefully altering illegal drugs to make them more appealing to young people in order to get more people hooked at a very early age.

The ongoing revelations of widespread steroid abuse in professional sports, along with the recent suicide of World Wrestling Entertainment superstar Chris Benoit, highlight a disturbing trend in sports and the entertainment world, and it has a lasting impact upon our kids. It is alleged that Benoit killed his wife and 7-year-old son in what is commonly called a “roid rage,” which is caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain brought on by steroid abuse. If this is proven true, it will be yet another tragic tale of the destructive nature of steroids.

What is even more tragic is the fact that steroid abuse among high schoolers has been rising. The 2006 Monitoring the Future Survey, a study done annually to monitor drug abuse among middle and senior high school students, shows that the percentage of 12th graders who have admitted trying steroids has increased dramatically. Kids look up to these athletes and performers as role models. We know that. When they see their heroes using these terrible substances, they get the impression that it is okay to use steroids.

Steroids are also marketed to kids. Students who participate in sports are facing enormous pressure to perform at high levels, and we are seeing more and more teens turn to steroids to gain an athletic advantage. You can find Web sites encouraging teens to buy substances called DHEA, which has been declared a steroid by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, as a new way to bulk up. The major sports leagues, with the exception of Major League Baseball, have banned DHEA, even though it remains legal in this country. Though DHEA is used as a legitimate supplement for thousands of people, teens are using it as an alternative to illegal steroids.

I introduced a bill earlier this year that would reinstate the ban that was imposed on DHEA in the 1980s, but I think we can find a way to keep minors from obtaining this substance while allowing adults to use the drug legitimately. GNC, the world's leading dietary supplement provider, has a policy not to sell DHEA to anyone under 18, and for good reason. We need to pass that legislation as soon as we can.

We should also take note of one of the fastest emerging drug trends among kids today—the abuse of prescription drugs. Most people don't even realize that their medicine cabinets can contain drugs just as powerful, just

as addictive as meth and heroin. Because they are prescribed by a doctor, and millions of people use them, kids think anti-anxiety drugs such as Xanax and pain killers such as Vicodin and OxyContin are harmless. Several examples of abuse occur every day when kids come home from school and take a pill to relax. But eventually one pill is not enough to make them feel better. Soon these kids take more pills and try different mixtures until they can obtain a sufficient high, and that is often with deadly results.

What is so troubling about this is a significant number of teens are experimenting with prescription drugs. According to a 2005 study conducted by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, one in five teens has admitted using pain killers to get high, and the organization reports it is even getting worse. The 2006 Monitoring the Future Survey shows that the abuse of prescription drugs has doubled since 2002. Access to these drugs is widespread. Not only can teens obtain these drugs from home or in school, they can also get them on line and through “pharm parties.”

Law enforcement officials have increasingly broken up pharm parties where teens grab prescription drugs from home and pass them around to friends. These drugs are often pooled in large bowls and young people take a pill or two, but they have no idea what pill they are taking. There are hundreds of Internet video clips where teens appear strung out on pills and alcohol as a result of pharm parties. We need to do a better job as parents and legislators to educate and prevent these fast-growing trends from reaching epidemic proportions. We have to educate the public about the proper ways to dispose of old medicines, and we need to help law enforcement deal with the large amount of illegal purchases at online pharmacies.

Another sad trend is taking hold in Dallas, TX, where earlier this summer a 17-year-old high school student became the 23rd victim of a drug called “cheese.” “Cheese heroin” is a mixture of black tar heroin and Tylenol PM that is usually smoked or snorted and often very deadly. Because it resembles actual cheese and can be purchased for as little as \$2 a hit, more kids in the Dallas area have been trying the new drug with terrible results. Though cheese heroin has only been seen in the Dallas area, don't think for a second it is going to stay in the Dallas area. Cheese heroin is cheap and being marketed solely to children.

Law enforcement officials will be the first to tell you that the new drugs tend to emerge in the larger cities and then move out to the suburbs. We should all be concerned about the drug trend in Dallas, because the sooner we can stem it, the better we can prevent it from spreading across the country.

The good news is that the people in the Dallas community are not taking this new drug lightly. We have school

officials and police who have been holding assemblies, lectures, PTA meetings, and classroom discussions to get the word out about cheese heroin.

A public service announcement, made in Dallas by local students, is currently airing throughout the area, and a hotline number has been taking a large number of calls for those seeking assistance to keep their loved ones from succumbing to this cheese heroin. Hopefully, their efforts will stop cheese in its tracks and maybe protect the rest of us around the country.

The Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse established a task force that is responsible for this effort. The key to this task force's success is that it incorporates all sectors of the Dallas community. Engaging and involving all sectors of our local communities is one of the best solutions to keeping our children from abusing drugs. That is why I formed, about 10 years ago, an organization called the Face It Together Coalition—we call it FIT for short—in my effort to combat drug abuse in my own State of Iowa. My goal with Face It Together is to bring to the same table parents, educators, businesses, religious leaders, law enforcement officials, health care providers, youth groups, and members of the media to promote new ways of thinking about how to reach and educate Iowans about the dangers of drug abuse. With everyone working together, we will make a difference in our communities. Moreover, together we can build healthy children, healthy families, healthy communities, and a healthy future.

In closing, I believe we have a moral obligation to ensure that our young people have a chance to grow up without being accosted by drug dealers at every turn, and particularly when they are in elementary school. We need as a country to create a strong moral context to help our kids know how to make the right choices. Research has shown time and again that if you can keep a child drug free until the age of 20, chances are very slim that they will ever try or become addicted. That is the task we face. We owe it to ourselves and the future of our country to protect our kids from drugs.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, consistent with our policy of going back and forth across the aisle, I ask unanimous consent following the remarks of the Senator from Ohio, that I be recognized for up to 10 minutes and that I be followed by the junior Senator from Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

PATRIOT CORPORATIONS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Iowa for his leader-

ship on drug abuse issues that he has shown for so long in this institution. We are all appreciative, in Ohio and Iowa and Oklahoma and everywhere else in this country.

We have heard a litany of stories in the last year or so about the steady stream of dangerous imports, especially from China. We have seen contaminated seafood, we have seen defective tires from China, we have seen dangerous ingredients in toothpaste and vitamins and pet food. In the last 24 hours, we have seen a continued problem with a huge number of toys being recalled that were painted with lead-based paint. Lead paint has been abandoned for almost three decades in this country. We know that lead in paint is a potentially terrible thing for children in terms of the development of their brain, especially for young children.

In USA Today this week is an article that sums up what we have allowed to happen, and why this is no surprise, as we have built this trade relationship with China. I would like to read a couple of paragraphs. We went from barely a \$10 billion trade deficit with China in 1992, the year I ran for the House of Representatives, which has grown by a factor of almost 25, to \$250 billion today. At the same time we were buying so much from China, we understood China is a country with no real rules, no environmental laws that are enforced well, few food safety, toy safety, worker safety rules and regulations. As a result, it should come as no shock to Americans that so many of these products imported from China are defective or dangerous. Let me read this:

Nearly all the recent alarms raised about Chinese products point fingers solely at the Chinese, neglecting entirely how China's success as an exporter is, in large part, the product of roughly a trillion dollars of foreign investment and limitless expertise that floods into the country in order to escape some standard or other at home.

First, of course, are labor standards. Chinese factory workers earn roughly 65 cents an hour, about $\frac{1}{40}$ what their American, Western European and Japanese counterparts do. Export companies—and the long chain of companies that supply them—commonly save money by subjecting [Chinese] workers to cramped dorms, long work weeks and often brutal shop bosses, which would be utterly illegal in the United States workplaces.

American business knows what it is doing, as it has offshored its jobs to China and offshored so many American jobs to China, so much of its work to China. Unfortunately, so much of what has happened is due to trade law and tax law. In essence, we are encouraging our businesses to outsource because of the incentives we provided them in the rules that have been written by the global economy, by U.S. trade law, by tax law. We can continue that or we have a choice. We can do something very different. What we offer this week is very different.

Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY in the House, with Congresswoman SUTTON from Ohio and several other Members

of Congress, TIM RYAN, also from Ohio and in the Senate, Senators DURBIN and OBAMA from Illinois, are offering legislation to set up what we call Patriot Corporations. Those are companies that play by the rules, they hire American workers, do most of their production in the United States, they pay their taxes. As I said, they do most of their production in the United States. They provide pensions and they provide health care for their workers. Those companies that do that should be rewarded. We will designate them "Patriot Corporations." They will get a lower tax rate and they also will have a better opportunity to get Government contracts.

Instead of going the way we have gone; that is, giving all kinds of incentives for American corporations to outsource jobs, giving all kinds of incentives for those companies to move overseas and avoid taxes—instead of allowing that, we, instead, should offer to American companies that play by the rules, those companies, again, that provide decent health care, pensions for their workers, do their manufacturing and work in the United States—we should reward them with the designation of "Patriot Corporation." Those companies that are loyal to their workers, loyal to their communities and loyal to their Nation should be rewarded. We should be loyal to them.

That is the choice we face, continuing this outsourcing tax and trade policy that costs us jobs, and we end up bringing in all kinds of unsafe products—whether they are food products at our breakfast table, whether they are toys that can potentially hurt our children. We have that choice; we either continue this policy or we designate corporations that play by the rules as Patriot Corporations.

As I said, if they are loyal to their workers and loyal to their communities and loyal to our Nation, we as a government should be loyal to them and treat them accordingly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

JUDGE TIMOTHY D. DEGIUSTI

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, this morning we did a great thing in the confirmation of Tim DeGiusti to the Federal court. Understandably, we are short of time this morning because of what is happening at the White House, but let me finalize a couple of ideas and some comments I was going to make.

First, when you have someone who has the highest rating, whether it is from Martin Dale Hubbell or the American Bar Association, which this candidate did and does, and he also as a military lawyer is familiar with courts-martial procedures—there are a lot of people out there with these qualifications. This individual goes far beyond that. It is interesting that